

## Are you being discriminated against?

The Missouri Commission on Human Rights is a state government agency which enforces the Missouri Fair Housing Act.

- If you think you have been discriminated against in housing, you should contact the Commission. You have 180 days from the time of the incident to file a complaint.
- The Commission will investigate your complaint to see if the law was broken.
- If there was a violation, the Commission can help you get certain legal remedies to which you may be entitled.
- If it is necessary, the Commission may take discrimination cases to a hearing or to court.

If you believe that you are being discriminated against, **you have the right to file a complaint.** No one can take any action against you for doing so, even if it turns out there was no discrimination.

Discrimination can be very subtle. Often **people may suspect they have been discriminated against**, but they are not sure they can prove it. **If this happens to you, call the Commission** anyway. Our investigators can often uncover discrimination the average person cannot detect. **If you do not contact the Commission, you may never know** if there was something that could have been done about it.

## Missouri Commission on Human Rights

P.O. Box 1129  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-1129  
573-751-3325

St. Louis, Missouri  
314-340-7590

[www.dolir.mo.gov/hr](http://www.dolir.mo.gov/hr)

*"... all persons are created equal and are entitled to equal rights and opportunities under the law ... to give security to these things is the principal office of government ... when government does not confer this security, it fails in its chief design."*

### TOLL FREE DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT HOTLINE

1 - 877-781-4236

## MISSOURI COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

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# Caring for Your Community



*It's everyone's responsibility in fair housing!*

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Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

# Housing Discrimination is Against the Law in Missouri



The Missouri Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination in housing because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, physical or mental disabilities, or familial status (families with children). Apartments, houses, mobile homes; and even vacant lots to be used for housing are covered by the Missouri Human Rights Act.

Anyone who has control over residential property and real estate financing must obey the law. This includes rental managers, property owners, real estate agents, landlords, banks, developers, builders and individual homeowners who are selling or renting their property.

## It is Illegal to:

- Refuse to sell or rent housing.
- Lie about the availability of housing.
- Evict someone from housing.
- Discriminate in the terms or conditions of housing; such as amount of rent, security deposits, house sale prices, the use of facilities, financing, or maintenance.

## Examples of Discrimination:

- A real estate agent tries to persuade someone not to buy or rent a house in a certain neighborhood. This is called steering.
- A newspaper ad says that housing is available for "singles" only.
- A black person answers a newspaper ad for an apartment. The landlord tells him the apartment has already been rented. It turns out the apartment was not rented, and the landlord later rents it to a white applicant who answers the same ad.
- A landlord evicts a white tenant from her mobile home because her black friends visit her there.

- A resident manager refuses to rent an apartment to a family with children, will only allow families with children to live in certain buildings or on certain floors, or charges families higher security deposits.
- A landlord checks the credit records of all black and Hispanic applicants and uses small credit problems as an excuse to refuse to rent apartments to them. It turns out that the landlord does not always check white applicants' credit records or overlooks small credit problems in their records.
- A property manager refuses to rent an apartment to a single woman, but he will rent the apartment to a single man.
- A bank refuses to lend money to a house buyer because the house he wants to buy is in a minority neighborhood. This is called redlining.
- A rental manager charges minority tenants a larger security deposit, or higher rent, than white tenants.
- A female tenant and her family are evicted from their apartment because the woman refused the landlord's sexual advances.
- A landlord refuses to rent an apartment to a person who is blind because they have a service dog.

